



## A “taste of Trinidad” opens at the Cayana Mall

Whitey’s West Indian food restaurant opened on Thursday, August 9, and taste testing press members all agree, it is “mighty good food, Mon!” Whitey’s is the “dream come true” of entrepreneur Gregory Lyder, an expatriate from Trinidad, who runs the restaurant with his wife, Marlyn.

Why “Whitey’s?” The story behind the name and the man that brings true Trinidad food to Aruba is an interesting one. Gregory is also known in Aruba by his alter ego “Mighty Whi-tee;” Carnival singer *extraordinaire*. When Gregory first appeared in the Carnival Road March contests and concerts years ago, enthusiastically “doing his thing” he set a precedent that has rarely been repeated. Now he is a regular feature on the circuit, known for his energetic and entertaining performances.

The same charm that he brings to the stage is evident as he warmly greets patrons, and he confessed he truly loves the food of his homeland, and has dreamed of bringing it to Arubans since he first settled on the island. Vickie Shute, also of Trinidad, is his chef, and this is real, down home Caribbean cooking with the strong influence of Indian food that is an integral part of the Trinidad culture. In Aruba, they call the crepe like pancakes that are a base of the cuisine “Roti,” but in Trinidad, it is Buss-up (pronounced BUSH-OP,) and a wide choice of flavorful filling are available to choose from to complete a meal that will “stuff you up,” according to Vicki. On Thursday, press members sampled all the fillings, curried chicken, beef, goat, and shrimp, each with their own distinct taste and preparation. Authentic tropical dishes accompanied the meal such as sweet curried green mango, Channa, Pampona (pumpkin) and other exotically names delights.

Whitey’s menu offers the “real deal” for those that want to go native, at unbelievable prices. Least expensive are veggie “wraps” starting at five Aruban florins, (less than \$3) to a shrimp filled wrap costing ten florins, (\$5.50.) All dishes come with a side order of your choice, and additional Caribbean standbys can be sampled for a mere fifty Aruban cents. The restaurant is opened six days a week; Tuesday through Sunday, from 11:00 A.M until 9:00 PM and until 11:00 PM on the weekends. Gregory informed the press he plans to offer entertainment on the patio on the weekends, and possibly “Mighty Whi-tee may be convinced to give a sample performance! Take-out orders can be called in at telephone #588-5352, and home delivery will soon be available.

If you are on a budget and like to “go native” Whitey’s is certainly the place to find a delicious, inexpensive (translated=*dirt cheap*!) authentic Caribbean experience in food and ambiance. Don’t be surprised if you try the place some weekend evening and end up demonstrating the new Carnival steps taught to you by “Mighty Whi-tee” himself!